

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 16, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to express our strong opposition to two provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 (S. 3254), as reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee. Given the many critical issues dealt with in this bill, and the urgent need to provide our military with the equipment, resources, and policies necessary to perform its missions, we believe the NDAA must be considered when the Senate reconvenes in November. We are concerned, however, that Sections 313 and 2823 of the Committee-passed bill regarding the use of alternative fuels by the Department of Defense (DOD), could cause harm to our national security and military readiness while hindering national efforts to develop viable domestic alternative fuels.

DOD is the largest single user of oil in the world, consuming more than 355,000 barrels of oil per day in Fiscal Year 2011. Despite increased domestic production of traditional fossil fuels, rising global oil prices and market volatility caused DOD's fuel bill to rise to more than \$19 billion in Fiscal Year 2011. These trends are expected to continue in the coming years. Alternative fuels will not supplant fossil fuels entirely; however, replacing even a fraction of the fuel consumed by DOD with domestic alternative fuels, has the potential to advance U.S. national security, improve strategic flexibility, and insulate the defense budget against future spikes in the cost of fossil fuels.

We strongly support the ability of military leaders to develop and employ alternative fuels. Given these concerns, we oppose the inclusion of these harmful and counterproductive provisions in the Fiscal Year 2013 NDAA.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall



Susan Collins



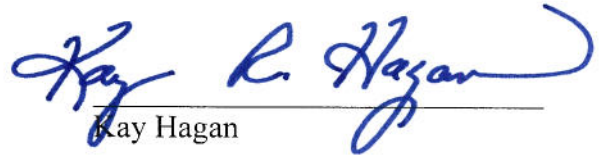
Carl Levin



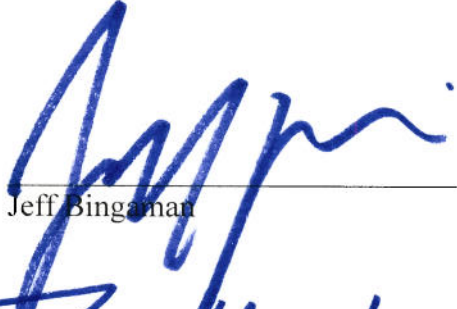
Patty Murray



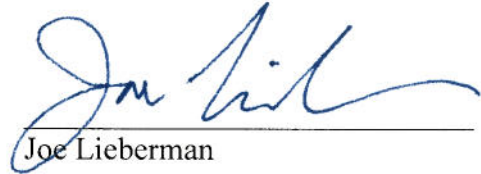
Jeanne Shaheen



Kay Hagan



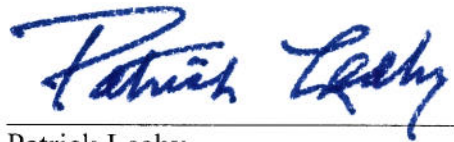
Jeff Bingaman




Joe Lieberman



Tom Harkin



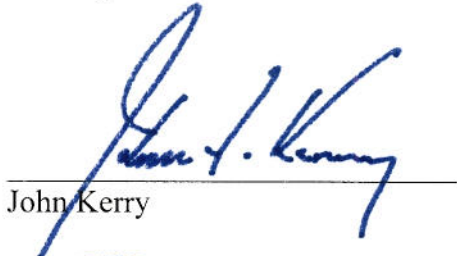
Patrick Leahy



Christopher Coons



Timothy Johnson



John Kerry



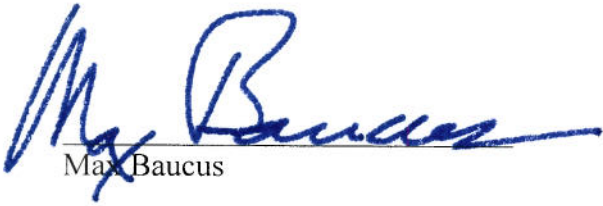
Ron Wyden



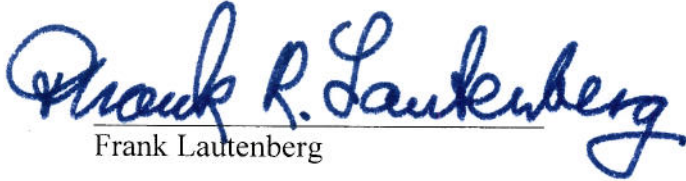
Tom Udall



Kirsten Gillibrand


Max Baucus

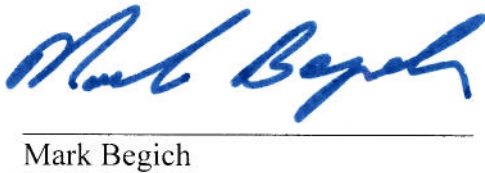

Al Franken


Frank Lautenberg


Debbie Stabenow


Sheldon Whitehouse

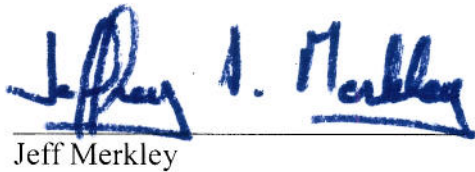

Maria Cantwell


Mark Begich


Barbara Boxer

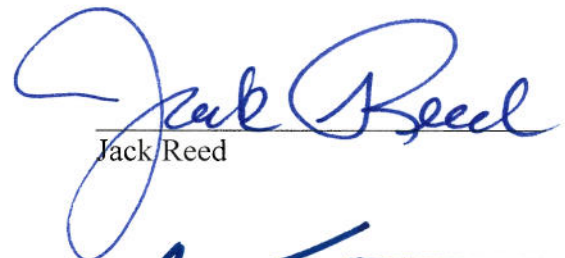

Daniel Akaka


Michael Bennet


Jeff Merkley


Amy Klobuchar


Ben Nelson


Jack Reed


Richard Blumenthal


Jon Tester

Herb Kohl

Herb Kohl

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Charles Schumer

Charles Schumer

Mary Landrieu

Mary Landrieu

Ben Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin

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Barbara Mikulski